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REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested. Applicants have cancelled claims 2, 10 and 12-15 by way of this amendment. Claims 1, 3-9 and 11 are currently pending in this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 9 were rejected to for various informalities. Applicant has amended the claims to overcome this ground of rejection, and thus it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0057711 ("Nguyen" et al). Claims 1, 4 and 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0057711 ("Nguyen" et al). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Shiimori, U.S. Patent 6,567,983. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen and Shiimori as applied to claim 5, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,935,205 ("Murayama" et al.) Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen, Shiimori, and Murayama as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,575,783 ("Wu").

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The Examiner has indicated that claims 2-3 and 10 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

For purposes only of expediting allowance of the claims of this invention, and not by way of agreement with any of the Examiner's interpretation of the novelty or non-obviousness of the claims in view of the prior art, applicants have amended to claims to include limitations indicated as allowable by the Examiner. For example, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 2, and claim 2 has been cancelled. Accordingly, claim 1 and dependent claim 4 are in condition for allowance. Applicants have amended claim 3 to include all the limitations of the parent claims, as requested by the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 3 and the claims that depend from it (claims 5, 6 and 7) are in condition for allowance.

Applicants have also amended independent claim 8 to include the limitations of claim 10, indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, claims 8 and 9 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants have also amended claim 11 to include subject matter which distinguishes of the prior art.

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Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

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